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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/603,295	06/25/2003	Steven W. Smith	0001-0004	3243
7590	03/22/2004			EXAMINER
Steven W. Smith				CASTELLANO, STEPHEN J
7237 Birchwood Drive				
Dallas, TX 75240-3609			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3727	

DATE MAILED: 03/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/603,295	SMITH, STEVEN W.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Stephen J. Castellano	3727

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 5,7 and 8 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: ____.

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the triangular configuration of three side walls as stated in claim 5, the different colored sections as stated in claim 7, the drawing that extends over a plurality of sections as stated in claim 8 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claims 5, 7 and 8 are objected to because there various elements are not shown in the drawings as discussed above. No new matter should be entered.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Levesque.

Levesque discloses an upright multi-sectioned container in Fig. 4 with a screw thread connecting means.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Neely.

Neely discloses a multi-sectioned container with a snapping mechanism connecting means with a seal 92.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bidwell.

Bidwell discloses a multi-sectioned container with a drawing that extends over a plurality of sections (see Fig. 6).

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Meyers.

Meyers discloses a multi-sectioned container wherein the horizontal cross section of the sections is square in shape.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kwon et al. (Kwon).

Kwon discloses a multi-sectioned container wherein the sections are of different color.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Neely, Meyers or Kwon.

Neely, Meyers and Kwon disclose square shaped sections. Triangular shaped cross sections are well known. It would have been obvious to modify the number of sides from four to three and to provide triangular shaped sections as a matter of design choice and personal preference as there is little criticality of the number of sides of the section as the present invention contemplates various number of sides and different polygons.

Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Neely, Meyers or Kwon.

This rejection is made in the event that these references do not show the water proof seal or the snap mechanism in the connecting means.

Snapping mechanisms are well known for locking sections of a multi-part container together. Water tight seals are well known for multi-sectioned containers. It would have been obvious to modify all the joints that connect sections and lids to have snapping mechanisms and water tight seals, to provide positive confirmation the sections and lids are locked together and to prevent the egress or ingress of fluid through the joints of the section to section joints or section to lid joints, respectively.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen J. Castellano whose telephone number is 703-308-1035. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 6:30-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lee W. Young can be reached on 703-308-2572. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

S. Castellano
Stephen J. Castellano
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3727

sjc